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Perry revivals draw overflow crowds

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

While Mississippi Baptist churches place a high premium on cooperation, true cooperation does not always take place — unless the church is part of the Perry Association in southeast Mississippi.

Perry Association sponsored a county wide spring revival May 5 -8. The revival involved 14 churches located in four different geographical locations in the county.

Unlike the traditional simultaneous revival strategy, Bob Goolsby, missions director for Perry Association, secured the services of four different evangelists and four different music evangelists or teams to lead in the revivals.

Speakers included Bud Swindoll of Alabama; Sonny Adkins, director of the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Jimmy Porter, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission; and Bill Causey, retired executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Music evangelists included Ken Shelton, Gordan Alford, Ken Culpepper, and Don Morgan.

According to Porter, "Each one of us was in four different churches, a different church each night. So each guest speaker would be in one of the four geographic areas of the county, and would be preaching to the same general group for each of the four nights — just in a different host church."

As one church in an area hosted the meeting, members from the other three churches in the same area would attend services at the host church, rotating the evangelism team between those four churches. Simultaneously, this same pattern would be duplicated in the three other areas of the county.

"The strategy was sort of like Crossover, the plan used prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in the convention host cities," said Porter. "It was also similar to the On Mission Celebrations, what we used to call the World Missions Conferences."

"I preached to full houses each evening," said Adkins. "There were so many real rededications, as well as people

getting saved. I saw real tears."

"One of the most meaningful things I saw was the camaraderie and cooperation built between people in these congregations," Porter stated. "There wasn't any competitiveness."

"Perry is pretty much a rural county," said Adkins. "I'd guess that half of the pastors there were bivocational. So what you've got is churches who are just down the road from each other who have never done anything together, and they came together for this."

According to Buddy Keyes, pastor at First Church, Richton, "God laid the vision for these revivals on Bob [Goolsby's] heart. Our church had major decisions, but what was so meaningful for us was to see the camaraderie between the churches. That hadn't happened in Perry County in years."

One intriguing aspect of the revival effort was the outreach



the evening, the other three churches would form a team to visit and work in the host church's field. The host church not only provided a meal for the evangelism team, but also for the groups from other churches which were helping in the outreach effort.

"What the churches learned," said Porter, "was that their real mission wasn't just to their own church field, but to the association and the county at large."

The revival was financed by special offerings taken up in each church each evening, with the offering being pooled by the associational office and then distributed equally to pay the expenses for the event.

"This really ministered to our churches, especially the ones that might not have the resources to afford a revival," said Keyes. "We'll see a definite positive from this."

Adkins stated that chairs had to be brought in the churches to handle the crowds. "You know, when you've got the front row of each church filled each night in a Baptist church, you're on to something. God is at work."

MBC nominations committee seeking recommendations for trustees, boards

The Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) Committee on Nominations will begin work soon to fill trustee and board member positions on the boards and commissions of the MBC. Aubrey Boone, a member of First Church, Winona, will serve as chairman of the committee.

Boone reported that a limited number of vacancies will be filled on the following MBC boards and commissions:

- Board of Ministerial Education.
- Christian Action Commission.
- Education Commission.
- Historical Commission.
- Baptist Children's Village.
- Baptist Health Systems, Inc., of Jackson.
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., of Memphis.
- Blue Mountain College.
- Mississippi College.
- William Carey College.
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Committee on Nominations will work in conjunction with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by messengers to the 2002 MBC annual meeting on October 29-30 at First Church, Jackson.

Nominations forms can be obtained by contacting the Executive Director's Office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org.

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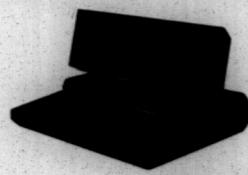
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Understandable" is the word that comes to mind when Christians (and non-Christians, for that matter) express utter confusion over the issue of stem cell research. We have been buffeted hither and yon by all the stem cell information that seems to be zipping past us at the speed of light. What is stem cell research? Is it a good thing? A moral thing? A Faustian bargain? A lifesaver? A lifetaker? All of the above? None of the above?

All those questions, and many more, must be answered by a thoughtful society now on the brink of discoveries and decisions that, for good or evil, promise to change our lives in ways we can't yet imagine. Christians should certainly play a major role in present and future debates on the merits of stem cell research and applications.

Stem cells were isolated and defined less than four years ago. By layman's definition, stem cells are unprogrammed human cells that can grow into any one of a number of body tissues when activated by chemical signals. There is little doubt that this fantastic field of research will lead to lifesaving therapies that will allow people to live quality lives over a longer span.

The problem is that scientists want to harvest living stem cells from a very controversial source: the embryos that mark one of the earliest stages of developing human life inside the mother. In the process of retrieving stem cells, the embryo is killed and thereby ceases a course of development that would culminate in the birth of a healthy human baby.

We were told by scientists that such is the price of progress, that embryonic stem cells must be gathered in order to further research and ultimately elevate the quality of the human race. We were told that there was simply no other source, and those among us who opposed the ghoulish research were branded as backward and as religious zealots.

As it turns out, there are other sources. Not too long ago, researchers discovered that umbilical and placental blood is teem-

ing with stem cells. Stem cells were found shortly thereafter in bone marrow and within the deep reaches of human skin, and researchers announced just this week that copious amounts of stem cells are to be found in human fat. That's right — the spare tire you've been carrying around your waist for all these years contains 100 times the amount of adult stem cells found in bone marrow, the next best non-embryonic source.

"Fat tissue is the most clinically relevant source of adult stem cells," researcher Mark Hedrick told MSNBC.com. Hedrick is so confident of the stem-cells-from-ordinary-fat concept that he started StemSource, a California company that freezes and stores individuals' fat-derived stem cells.

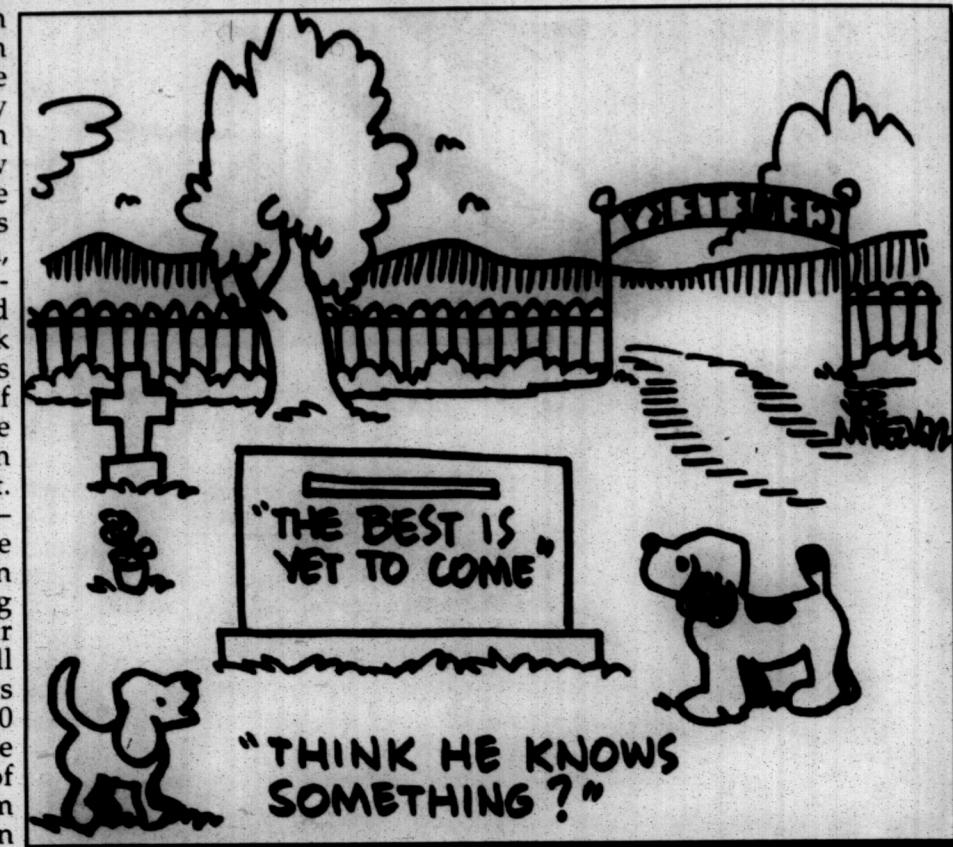
What's the advantage of that? Peter Fodor, chair of StemSource's clinical advisory board and chief of plastic surgery at Century City Hospital in Los Angeles, told MSNBC.com that he foresees a time when a person will be able to use his/her personal fat-derived stem cells to grow new body parts without fear of rejection by the body's immune system. Fodor told MSNBC.com that he and colleagues have already managed to transform fat-derived stem cells into bone, cartilage, muscle, nerve, and additional fat cells.

One day soon, heart patients may have damaged valves replaced with valves grown from their own stem cells, or a person horribly disfigured in an auto accident or fire may have the opportunity to look as normal as everyone else, thanks to the abundant supply of stem cells from so many sources.

So the next time you hear someone on television or read of someone in the newspaper who advocates embryonic stem cell research as the only path to the future, you'll know it isn't true. The human body is swarming with stem cells, and there is simply no justification in snuffing out a life just to easily retrieve a few of the cells.

In human history, there has always been more than one path to the future. There is more than one path to the future of stem cell research. There are paths upon which God himself wishes to plant our feet.

If only we had eyes to see.



"THINK HE KNOWS SOMETHING?"

GUEST OPINION:



Get to know your missions director

By Allen Stephens, AMD
Rankin Association, Brandon

main entity outside the local Baptist church where the church has any accountability.

In reality, all the association can do is withdraw fellowship from a church that is deemed unworthy for one reason or another, but that is the way that Southern Baptists have chosen to maintain doctrinal integrity, etc. (Explanation: Churches are accepted into the association by vote of the body. They are accepted into the Southern Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist Convention by participation in the Cooperative Program.)

The association assists in doing cooperative evangelism. This is done by strategically planting churches and by helping churches mobilize volun-

teers in missions. Also, the association affirms those churches that are doing evangelism and encourages those that are not.

In addition to this, most associations provide evangelistic opportunities in their area outside the local church. This is often accomplished by an area-wide evangelistic crusade. In recent years Mississippi associations have sponsored Bible distribution and Jesus Film distribution.

The association also assists churches through leadership training. Each association sponsors training events that help the church leaders do their job more effectively. An important aspect to be emphasized here is the way that the state conven-

tion and the various associations coordinate together to accomplish this.

Another way the association assists churches is by being a catalyst and a conduit for the churches to be involved in kingdom ministry outside themselves. This may take shape in any number of ways: Christian social ministries, family counseling, center for pregnancy choices, etc.

A very vital part of the ministry of the association is helping to strengthen relationships between churches. Through the various training and fellowship meetings the association provides opportunities to promote harmony and vitality.

Will you join in celebrating such a vital part of the kingdom of God as the Baptist association not only this week, as we celebrate Associational Missions Week throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, but all year long?

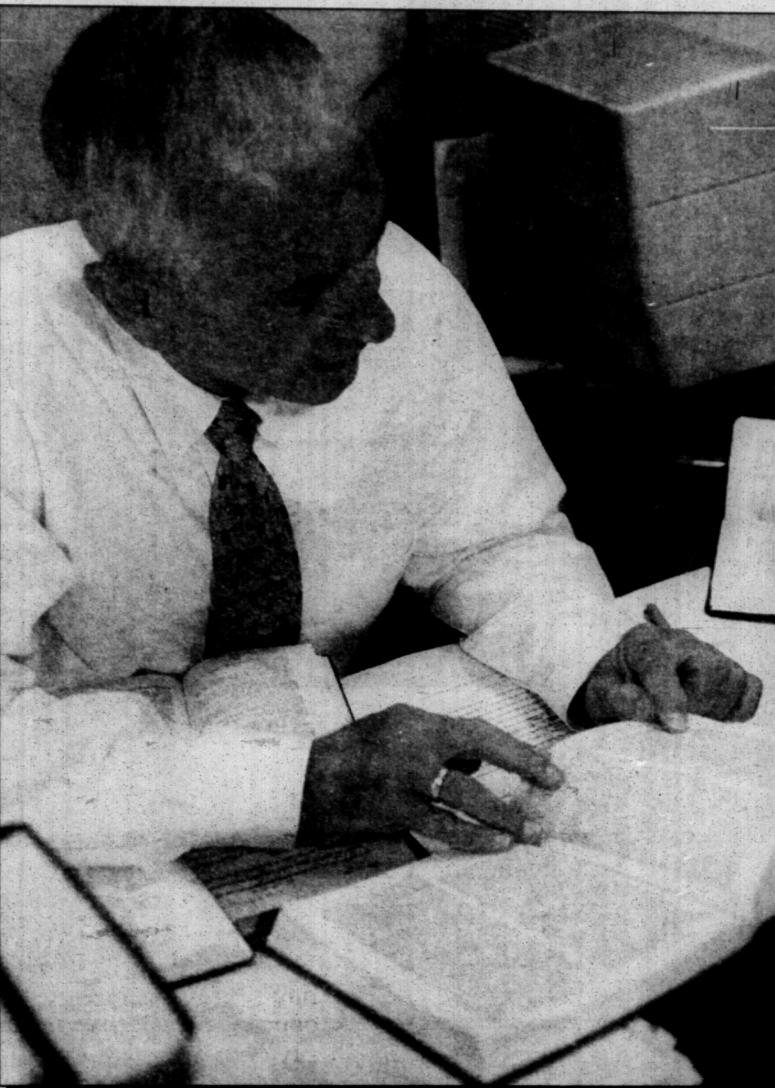
Also, get to know your AMD. He is a man of considerable experience in the Lord's work and is very involved in the advancement of God's Kingdom.

HCSB editor: faithful translation a challenge

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A full-fledged translation of Scripture such as the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) is an undertaking of biblical proportions. Among the challenges: addressing questions not just among the HCSB's Bible scholars and editors but also among pastors and church members.

The proverbial question of whether another Bible translation is really needed is always at hand, as is the question that can be posed in myriad ways of why a particular Bible passage has been translated in a particular way.

"The explosion of knowledge means there's always going to be a need for new knowledge," (BP photo)



NEW TRANSLATION — Ed Blum, general editor of the Holman Christian Standard Bible, says new Scripture translations will always be needed amid "the explosion of

ground as a gender-accurate translation within the biblical inerrancy tradition.

The HCSB is an original translation from the biblical Hebrew and Greek languages within a heritage stretching from William Tyndale's translation in the 1500s to the New International Version (NIV) in modern times.

The HCSB translation of each book of the Bible starts with a scholar's draft from the original Hebrew or Greek. The process subsequently includes two committees of scholars who study each draft word by word with an eye toward refinements and improvements drawn from their expertise and the latest in biblical scholarship and archaeology.

A state-of-the-art software program, for example, can speedily provide HCSB scholars and editors

with the ability to compare a Scripture passage in progress with the same passage from 30 previous Bible translations or revisions. Also available through the software program are a searchable array of Bible dictionaries, commentaries, atlases and other resources.

Another distinction of the HCSB as an original translation is that the scholarly fruits of the in-depth studies of the original Greek and Hebrew words will be included as a feature in most HCSB Bibles, in addition to the usual cross references and footnotes.

"In working through the Greek and Hebrew texts, the translation team often came to words that had several possible

translation options," Blum, a former professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, recounted.

"To decide on the best English rendition, we would take ourselves through focused word studies [which proved to be] both interesting and instructive in honing in on the exact meaning of the words. By including some of these, we hope to bring readers even closer to the truth of Scripture."

The HCSB New Testament, which was released in 2001, includes 222 word studies. The HCSB Old Testament translation is to be released in the spring of 2004.

The HCSB is not solely a Southern Baptist undertaking. Among the 95 scholars and editors involved in the translation, Blum and about 60% of the par-

Mississippi Baptists

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ticipants represent other evangelical traditions. The HCSB's associate general editor, meanwhile, is Ray Clendenen, a Bible scholar on staff at LifeWay who also is the general editor of B&H's 40-volume New American Commentary series.

A belief in biblical inerrancy is shared and fleshed out in the HCSB by Blum, Clendenen, and the translation's other scholars. "The standard of evaluation has to be, What does the [original] text actually say?" Blum noted.

With a goal of achieving both accuracy and readability, the HCSB strives for a word-for-word translation within the English language's noun-verb-subject framework, Blum said.

Translations in the King James tradition may be a bit more difficult to read, he said, because they reflect more of the original languages' word order which can place nouns, verbs, and subjects almost anywhere in a sentence.

Looking back

10 years ago

Pullen Memorial Church of the Raleigh Association in North Carolina, is voted out of their association. Pullen Memorial Church had previously voted to "bless" the union of two male homosexuals earlier in the year.

20 years ago

The Baptist Record runs an article debunking the rumor that Madeline Murray O'Hair has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to remove all Christian programming from the airwaves. (Note: This rumor has surfaced repeatedly since 1976 and continues to reappear to this day.)

50 years ago

Hundreds attend the cornerstone ceremonies at First Church, Hattiesburg, during which the cornerstone of the new sanctuary is filled with items donated by every age group in the church. The Baptist Record states that this will be one of the largest colonial church buildings in America when completed.

LifeWay best sellers

HARDBACK

1. **Bringing Up Boys**, James Dobson, Tyndale
2. **When Godly People Do Ungodly Things**, Beth Moore (Broadman & Holman — B&H)
3. **Prayer of Jabez for Women**, Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah)
4. **Traveling Light**, Max Lucado (Nelson Publishers)
5. **Praying God's Word**, Beth Moore (B&H)
6. **He Chose Nails**, Max Lucado (Nelson Publishers)
7. **Wild at Heart**, John Eldredge (Nelson Publishers)
8. **Heaven My Father's House**, Anne Graham Lotz (Nelson Publishers)
9. **Church God Blesses**, Jim Cymbala (Zondervan)
10. **Secrets of the Vine**, Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah)

PAPERBACK

1. **Power of a Praying Wife**, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
2. **Praying God's Will for Your Life**, Stormie Omartian (Nelson Publishers)
3. **Five Love Languages**, Gary Chapman (Moody Press)
4. **Power of a Praying Parent**, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
5. **Power of a Praying Husband**, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
6. **Case for Faith**, Lee Strobel (Zondervan)
7. **Bad Girls of the Bible**, Liz Curtis Higgs (WaterBrook)
8. **Humor for a Woman's Heart**, Shari MacDonald
9. **Experiencing God With Bible Study Questions**, Henry Blackaby (B&H)
10. **Sacred Romance**, John Eldredge & Curtis Brent (Nelson Publishers)

Steve Green tackling another role in busy life

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — For more than 17 years Steve Green has been recording music that has catapulted him to six Dove Awards, four Grammy nominations and 18 No. 1 hit songs. Through the years, Green has balanced ministry with his 23-year union to his wife Mary Jean and their two children, Summer, 20, and Josiah, 16.

These days, though, another responsibility has been added to Green's life, one that he cherishes — as one of his father's caregivers. It's been 12 years since Green learned that his father Charles had Parkinson's disease. At the time, Charles, now 71, and his wife Jo, 74, were living in Phoenix.

"As the disease progressed, they needed help and we wanted them to come and live with us," Green told Baptist Press. Green and his brother have land holdings in Franklin, Tenn., a southern suburb of Nashville.

"It seemed pretty reasonable to us that they would finish out their last days with us," he said, "so we prayed and told our parents that we wanted to help."

Green's father, however, wasn't so set on moving. A lifelong missionary in South America, Charles only retired when the disease was first diagnosed. With his father still resisting the idea, Green and his brother pooled resources and decided to build their parents a home on a parcel of land that was situated between their Franklin homes.

"We told them that the house would be here when they wanted it," Green said.

Over time, Charles came to terms with the move and gladly accepted his sons' offer. "He told me that he felt stuck and now we were able to unstuck him," Green said. "They never saw the house until they moved in. It was a small cottage built with love and the best view around."

It's been six years since that day and Charles' condition is worsening. The disease has taken its toll on the former missionary. He is completely bed-ridden. A sitter maintains watch during the daytime, while Green and his wife put him to bed in the evening.

Green's mother has had her share of health battles, too. After cancer surgery, she had both knees replaced. Still, Green said, she is a "radiant beam of sunshine."

For Green, these have been long years, watching his father die. "It was difficult watching him," he said. "I was raised on the mission field. When I was 8, I left home for missionary boarding school. I was



Steve Green

never around my dad that much. I missed doing a lot of stuff with my dad. For a kid, a dad is important.

"One day I was mowing the yard and I started to cry," he said. "When I saw my dad sitting there in his rocker, I told God that I wanted my dad back."

Despite the hardship, Green said it is a "tremendous blessing to help with his father's care. There is a tremendous outpouring of affection for him from our family," he said.

Along with his brother David, Green's two children also help care for their grandfather as his condition continues to deteriorate.

"I hope they are picking up some lessons from this," he said. "That's what family is about. You celebrate the high points and quietly go through the difficult times."

"Dad's dream was to die and be buried in South America, but God's dream was to let him be an example of how a Christian dies slowly."

Guide for care of aging loved ones published

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — An exhaustive, 551-page guide to caring for aging loved ones is being published by Focus on the Family.

The Complete Guide to Caring for Aging Loved Ones will deal with the aspects of successful aging from the viewpoint of the whole person — physical, mental, emotional, relational, and spiritual.

At the end of the 20th century, doctors began to formally study the effects of religion and spirituality on successful health and aging, notes Walter L. Larimore, a medical doctor from Colorado Springs, Colo., and author of the book's forward.

"Now, after publication of more than 1,200 medical studies on the subject, it is generally recognized that religious beliefs and practices are associated with a wide variety of healthy outcomes," Larimore writes.

The book covers issues including family dynamics in caregiving; helping your elder cope; finding health, medical, and social services; protecting aging loved ones from elder abuse; and facing your loved one's death.

The guide took three years to produce and was written by a team of writers and physicians.

GRADUATION TAPESTRY

Recently, I was in the sanctuary of First Church, Brookhaven. While there, I saw something that I had actually seen before, but didn't really realize what I was looking at.

There on the baptistry wall is a picture of Jesus, but this is not just a picture, or just a painting — it is the largest tapestry that I have ever seen! It may be the largest tapestry in the state, or the South, or possibly among the largest in the world. It is big and it is beautiful, but most of all, it is beyond belief!

The story of the tapestry is on a plaque in the sanctuary and here is the part that boggled my mind. This beautiful piece of work, made of thread, contains 7.6 million hand-tied knots! (Would you let that sink in?) Seven million, six hundred thousand labor intensive, "make sure the right color is in the right place," gently cared for, tied knots!

I got up as close as I could without going over into the baptistry itself and still could not even see one thread from another. There it hangs, a beautiful piece of workmanship, blessing everyone who comes along that way to see it and all the while concealing in its woven patterns the millions of minutes that went into its making.

As in most of our churches, as you turn away from the baptistry you look across the congregation and there you begin to see other mind-boggling works of art fashioned in human forms.

I thought about the thousands of people who have been touched by the life and ministry of that church and literally, the



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

millions of people who have been converted, called, challenged, and sent out to serve our Lord Jesus from all of our churches through the decades.

This month most of our churches will be celebrating with graduation ceremonies both from high school and college. Thousands of young people who have seen grow up will now go on to a full and fruitful life for Christ. Each one of them is a tapestry of ministry and a beautiful representation of what the Lord can do with and through his people.

Think about tapestry:

- It is a cooperative effort. No one person could possibly do all the work and tie all the knots (7.6 million) to make the beautiful scene in that baptistry. More than likely hundreds, if not thousands, of hands joined in the effort to put it together. That is also the way of Kingdom work!

As you watch young people graduate this year, just think about how many small touches make up the totality of who they are. Think of those gentle hands that first received them into the preschool area, creating the kind of environment that let them know that God and his people are caring, loving, and helpful. Before they could ever walk or talk, they were experiencing small little threads of work

being woven and tied into their hearts and minds.

Who were they? Through the years, how many were there in the children's classes and departments who touched their lives? How many verses were memorized from Scripture and how many lessons were taught? How many impressions registered with them, not because someone said the right thing, but because someone's attitude conveyed the right thing.

Then came the days of youth — challenging days, decision-making days, and days when it was easy for freedom to exceed responsibility. Who was there encouraging, directing, redirecting, lifting up, and leading on? For each one of them hundreds of people could be listed who joined together in the effort — parents, peers, pastors, teachers, and coaches.

- Not only is a tapestry a cooperative work, it is a continuous work. Can you imagine what it must have been like to have come to the completion of 7.6 million hand-tied knots and finally be able to say, "There it is! Complete! Finished! Full!"

I wonder if any of the folks that started were there at the finish? I wonder if those who were there at the finish acknowledged those who began the work? Of course, the reality with you, me, and those around

us is that we are works in progress. There are moments of attainment and graduation but those are only brief pauses after which we continue the process.

Some years ago, I remember occasionally seeing the letters, GATWMY. It doesn't look like it spells anything in particular, but it stands for "God ain't through with me yet!"

- Finally, the tapestry is a work to be celebrated. That's the way it is in life and God has made it so. He gives us wonderful opportunities to pause and praise him and contemplate the marvels of his work in us, around us, and through us. It is absolutely beautiful to see.

Even though we may try to get a close-up view of a person's life, attempting to see some of the small threads, we really won't be able to tell if we had a part in tying a knot here or there, but God knows!

Though neither we, nor the person who is the tapestry of God's handiwork, know all the touches that have shaped and blessed to make them who they are in the Lord — those of us who walk with him, follow him, and let him take our hands and hearts to use us know that somewhere down the line we were a part of something good and God-glorying.

As you go to church this Sunday, look around you. Not many of our churches have the handwork of an enormous tapestry hanging at the front, but every one of our churches can see the tapestry of ministry on every pew shaped in a little boy, a little girl, a senior adult, a single young person, a precious baby, or a young couple. Celebrate the tapestry of ministry!

BeachReach wrapping another stellar year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Another year of BeachReach has come and gone, with 625 college students witnessing God's touch in the lives of college students from across the United States. Students from campuses across the country ministered on the Panama City, Fla., beaches during the month of March, recording 106 students' professions of faith and 23 decisions to rededicate their lives to Christ.

Christy Ridings, event coordinator for adult enrichment events at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, said she was "both encouraged and challenged by the students," as they responded to the challenge of sharing the message of Christ with their peers in Panama City.

"Their ability to turn a conversation about the Final Four into a conversation about eternal salvation served as a reminder to me to use every opportunity I am given to grow the kingdom," Ridings said.

Each year the BeachReachers offer free van rides to college students at the beach and serve a free pancake breakfast every day. The vans are available for anyone who wants a ride. Ridings said each campus group that goes to BeachReach to minister is asked to bring a van to use in the "ministry of the free ride."

Some Baptist Campus Ministry groups

have their own van. Others bring a church van, and some will rent a van for the week. This year 8,361 van rides were given. "We had students who would call and say, 'I want a ride on the Jesus van,'" Ridings said. "That was a pretty cool thing, to be called the Jesus van. But we were. We had a lot of students who requested rides from us."

The pancake breakfast, Ridings said, is always a big draw. The owner of the Sunset Restaurant on the beach has allowed the BeachReach group to use his restaurant for the breakfast for years, Ridings said. "Since the restaurant is only open for dinner, he generously lets us use it for our breakfast," she recounted.

"We served 11,494 breakfasts this year." The disaster relief team from the Georgia Baptist Convention set up and cooked all the breakfasts. "These folks were great," Ridings said. "They arrived early every morning and cooked thousands of pancakes. We appreciate them so much." Just between the van rides and pancake breakfasts, almost 20,000 opportunities were presented for the students to hear the Gospel. This number doesn't include the hundreds of students and conversations that BeachReach Street Teams encountered, she said.

"This generation is crying out for the hope that comes from a relationship with Christ, and deep down they know it,"

Ridings said. "I can't tell you the number of students who climbed on the vans for a free ride or came to the pancake breakfast for a free meal and opened up their lives to anyone who would listen."

Buddy Young, then Baptist Student Union director at Alvin Community College, started BeachReach in 1980 at South Padre Island, Tex. Young, who is now Baptist Collegiate Ministry director at West Texas A&M, is still reaching out to students at South Padre Island, Ridings said.

"Buddy Young is really the one who started this whole program. He deserves a lot of credit for the vision he has for students."

Editor's note: For more information about BeachReach 2002 and for suggestions on involvement by campuses for BeachReach 2003, contact Christy Ridings at christy.ridings@lifeway.com or at (615) 251-2067.



Church discovers bus ministry keeps on rolling

MIDDLE RIVER, Md. (BP) — Remember the heydays of bus ministry — the kids noisily bouncing along while Sunday School teachers scurry around the church getting the classes ready for the onslaught, and the sigh of contentment when the last child was dropped off at their home?

Even more exciting was when those unchurched wild bus kids who turned the Sunday School upside down walked the aisle to accept Jesus as their Savior. It made it all worthwhile.

Middle River Church in Middle River, Md., knows the feeling. Their bus ministry has been chugging along for the past 30 years and even has one of the original drivers still driving. They'll celebrate the anniversary this month with a special worship service and luncheon.

Mississippi Baptists are currently involved in a partnership with Baptists in the Maryland/Delaware region. The partnership is supported by the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Long-time Middle River Church member Hassell Vass began the bus ministry in 1972. At the time, independent churches were having quite a success with bus ministry and the North American Mission Board began holding training sessions in Georgia to help Southern Baptist churches develop their own bus ministries.

"I went to Atlanta and learned a great deal more about it and thought it was something we could really use," Vass said. "Fortunately the church gave me a free hand. I was a sales manager and promotion oriented, so it

was a challenge to me but also it was a great ministry."

Vass came back fired up. He recruited volunteers and headed out to knock on doors.

"Door knocking is the only way to have a bus ministry," Vass said. "It's hard to get people to have the toughness to go out and knock on doors now, but it was one of my favorite things to do."

Along the way, Vass would find children playing and he would join in.

"I'd go out in the community and find kids playing games and I would play with them and talk to them. I had some favorite tricks they liked. After awhile, I'd ask them where they go to Sunday School and if they didn't go anywhere I asked if they wanted to ride the bus to church."

The bus ministry was growing — really growing. Vass said after

the first Sunday of door knocking, the buses brought in 70 children. Soon they added another bus, then another and before long they were up to seven buses and bringing in 300 children.

"One of the interesting things about our bus ministry is that we agreed in the beginning that we would start at our church door and work out, not go out far distances from the church to pick up kids," Vass said. "Even with seven buses, the farthest we went from church was less than a mile."

"We had contests," Vass recalls. "One was a steak and beans contest. In four weeks the bus crew that brought in the most new members got to eat steak. The rest of us would eat beans. We made the pastor eat hot dogs and beans. Different things like that really kept the interest high." Vass also used the

teenagers and puppet ministry to help recruit children.

Seven buses ran for over six years, but as the population changed, and there were less workers, the buses dropped off one by one, but the ministry never stopped. It still goes strong with three buses, plus a van that picks up some of the senior adults. Members Tom and Cindy Cardarelli head up the bus ministry.

The Cardarellis minister through continued contact with the children who ride the buses. Crewmembers call the kids every Friday or Saturday to see if the children plan to come to church that weekend. This allows for continued interaction. The children get puzzles to work while riding and pencils for bringing friends. They also get special treats for Christmas and Easter. Children encourage visitors. They give out candy and other treats to the newcomers and hugs and best wishes for the week.

One of the big events throughout all of the bus ministry's history is Vacation Bible School. That's when the buses are full and outreach the greatest.

Bill Baker has been driving since the beginning and he makes it easier for the other drivers to head out on Sundays. He arrives before anyone else, warms up the buses and checks them before the other drivers head out.

Yet with all the hard work, everyone involved seems to think it's worth it.

"It's a great ministry and the whole thing is worth it for us to see one of these children go forward on a Sunday morning," Cindy Cardarelli said.

WAY TO THE HEART — Volunteers from the Georgia Baptist Convention Disaster Relief team cooked pancakes for almost 12,000 people during the recently-concluded BeachReach campaign in Panama City, Fla. (BP photo by Christy Ridings)



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



ROLLING RIGHT ALONG — After 30 years on the road, Middle River Church in Middle River, Md., still reaches out to the community through its bus ministry. "Bus kids" and their monitors enjoy the ride. (BP photo)

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Centennial Celebration at Lucedale Church, Lucedale

Anniversary planned

Harmony Church, Brookhaven, will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on June 9. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., and continue with special music. George Meadows will preach. A covered dish meal will follow. After lunch, a sharing time by former members and pastors will be observed, along with special music.

Former members of the church and those who have moved their letters elsewhere are asked to send their address to Betty Johnson at 969 Zetus Road, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

Lucedale Church, Lucedale, held a centennial celebration April 7. Pictured (front row, from left) are Joe Stovall, former pastor; Kathleen Stovall; Bud Parker, pastor; Marilyn Parker; Vivian Fryfogle, centennial celebration chairwoman; (back row) Cathy Turner; John Turner, former pastor; Todd DuBose, minister of music; and Alicia DuBose.

Montgomery Church, Summit, recently held a GA recognition service for 6th grade GAs being promoted to Acteens in the fall. Pictured, from left: Kayla Wallace, Katie Cole, Morgan Roberts, Mikki Mitchell, and Chassity Moak.



GAs of Montgomery Church, Summit

Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven, will present the Dove Brothers Quartet in concert on May 18 at 7 p.m. For additional information, call (601) 833-8018.



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Acteens of Liberty Church, Carroll Association

Clear Branch Church, Florence, will host a gospel sing on June 1 at 6 p.m. Scheduled to perform are Clear Mountain, Song of Grace, and Voices of Zion.

The sing is a service project of Mississippi Ambassadors Growing in Service, a youth organization dedicated to service in their community.

Experiencing God weekend will be held at Hernando High School, Friday, May 17 and continue through Sunday, May 19, at Parkway Church, Hernando. For additional information and registration, contact David Christopher at (662) 429-6045.

Bethany Church, Bay Springs, will present The Masters Quartet in concert on June 2 during the 11 a.m. regular worship service and will be followed by lunch in fellowship hall.



GAs of Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson

NaturEar

NaturEar is a patented hearing aid that solves hearing problems for most people. Thousands are discovering the joy of understanding what people are saying. This self-fitting soft tip feature guarantees a comfortable, natural fit. Compares to hearing aids that sell for over \$1000. Made in the USA by NaturEar of New Orleans.

Comes with a factory warranty * Less than 3/4 inch in size
No prescription needed * 30 day risk-free trial

On Sale at 50% Off for \$297

For complete information on your hearing health, visit www.naturear.com or call toll free 1-866-807-7931
"Hearing the way nature intended!"

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE, TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 16, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

SISTERS WHO CARE

RETREAT

MAY 24-27, 2002

**PATTERSON PLACE LODGE
CAMP GARAYWA**



Featuring "Miss Chocolate"
Gwen Williams
New Orleans, La.

Join us and the women of Seventh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md., for this celebration experience!

- "Women and Their Money" led by **Rebecca Williams**
- "Building Your Leadership Skills" led by **Laura Leathers**

For more info, contact the WMU at 1 (800) 748-1651, or in Jackson (601) 292-3324.

SISTERS WHO CARE RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Association/County _____

Church _____

Patterson Place Lodge: check number per room

(double rooms with queen beds) (list roommate's names below)

2 @ \$30 per person _____

3 @ \$25 per person _____

4 @ \$20 per person _____

Total P.P. lodging enclosed = _____

Meals: (with or without lodging)

@ \$7 Dinner (each) = _____

@ \$5 Breakfast (each) = _____

@ \$6 Lunch (each) = _____

Total meals = _____

Total lodging = _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

**Deadline
is
May 17**

MAIL TO: WMU - SISTERS, PO BOX 530, JACKSON MS 39205-0530

This summer your youth can worship and communicate the gospel through



at HeartSong

The music and worship arts camp
for 7 - 12th grades June 25-29
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Miss.

- Individual youth and entire youth groups will prepare and share a musical presentation.
- Encourage or "jump start" your youth choir.
- Offer opportunities for your youth to discover and develop their talents.
- Sing in a HUGE choir directed by Dr. Jamie Meaders, Mississippi College.
- Other features include: → Student leaders → Talent show → Creative worship involving the youth → "Family groups" for Bible study and spiritual growth → Jazz band and pizza on the patio → Afternoons of recreation
- Cost of \$155 per person includes: lodging, meals, insurance, music and T-shirt

For registration call: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, (228) 452-7261
For program information: Church Music Department, 1 (800) 748-1651,
ext. 274, (601) 292-3274 or E-mail: sclark@mbcb.org

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night 2002

Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson
Friday, July 19, 2002 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.



David Nasser

Music Director

Exit 10

Meeting Center

Plan Now to Bring Your Church Youth Group



International Missions Conference Celebrating our Emeritus Missionaries

Ridgecrest, N.C.

July 27 - August 2, 2002

Bible Study Leader: Robertson McQuilkin

Mississippi WMU is sponsoring a bus trip to the **last** International Missions Conference being held at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Our bus will depart from Camp Garaywa on **July 26** and return on **August 3**.

Cost: \$605 (estimate)

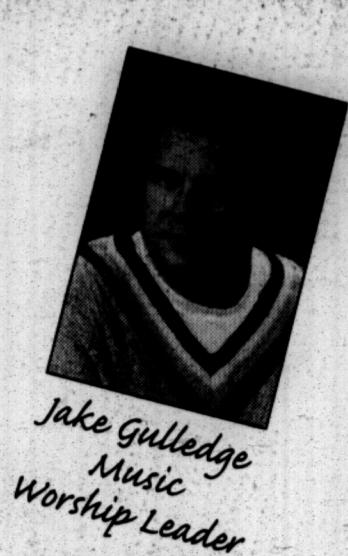
Cost details are on registration form which is available from the Mississippi WMU Office at 1 (800) 748-1651, ext. 316 or E-mail: nmason@mcb.org to request a form. **A deposit of \$75 is due by May 24, 2002.** Final payments, cancellations, and substitutions are due by June 18, 2002.

You can find more information and a registration form under **EVENTS** on the Mississippi Baptist Web site: www.MBCB.org.

We're loading up the bus...are you going to be on it???



Stacey Spencer
Worship Leader



Jake Gulledge
Music
Worship Leader

Super Summer 2002

July 15-19
Mississippi College

For more info contact: Harvey Ellis
Discipleship and Family Ministry
(601) 292-3286 or 1 (800) 748-1651

BAPTIST HYMNALS NEEDED FOR AFRICAN SEMINARY

The only seminary in Africa offering a graduate degree in church music is in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. Currently, most African church choirs sing only the melody of hymns from memory, for they have only the words without music.

Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department consultant, after teaching a course at this seminary, has a burden to provide our fellow Baptist musicians in Africa with 5,000 copies of the 1991 Baptist Hymnal. Their choirs could then proclaim the theology of our Baptist faith in beautiful four-part harmony! As of August, 3,000 hymnals have been given and sent.

You can help with a financial gift. One hymnal is \$5. A box of 20 is \$100. If you or your church group would like to participate in this ministry, please call Jimmy McCaleb at (601) 292-3273, 1 (800) 748-1651 or E-mail him at jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Checks may be made out to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mailed to:

Jimmy McCaleb
MBCB
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

THE BAPTIST HERALD

Mississippi Baptist Convention State Softball Tournament

2002 Tournament Dates

Class	Sunday School Enrollment	Dates
A	0-300	July 19 & 20
AA	301-700	July 26 & 27
AAA	701 and above	August 9 & 10

For more info call Men's Ministry, 1 (800) 748-1651, or 1 (601) 292-3335



Pastor and Wife Retreat

August 8-10, 2002
Gulledge Baptist Assembly

Leaders

Glen Putnam is the pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Ark., and former staff counselor for Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis. His doctoral research was on ministry marriages. He is well qualified to guide our retreat because of his vast pastoral ministry, extensive counseling experiences and support to ministers and their families.

Steve Walker, music minister from Pinola, will lead music in our worship.

To provide a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship for pastors and wives.

Childcare

Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

Cost

2 nights lodging and 6 meals:

- Adults: \$90 per person
- Ages 12 & up: \$53.25 per person
- Ages 2-11: \$31.65 per person
- Age 2 and under: no cost

There is no conference fee.

Scholarships

Scholarships of \$50 per pastor are available.

For more information
Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept.

Mark Buckles, director
Keith Gordon, consultant
Kay McDonnell, ministry assistant
1 (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3305

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

"Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep Christians from praying. He laughs at our toil, mocks our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

Jeff and Tina Hill are MSC missionaries in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. He is youth pastor at Sanctuary Baptist Church and chaplain at White Oak High School. Pray for the small group studies he has started at the high school, and for the outreach at the church and the school. Pray for financial aid for MSC workers.

Intercede for ongoing classes led by the Jakarta, Indonesia, Student Ministry Team. The Team encourages students to seek answers to life problems, which include corruption, drug use or alcohol consumption as well as spiritual issues. Pray for their students to seek God and to find His love.

Please begin to intercede now for a special region-wide prayer emphasis, known as "Passion for Prayer," scheduled for this summer in Western Europe. Lift up the students who are called to go prayerwalk for those living in darkness.

(1) II Senior Adult Conference, 20th-22nd, Gulfshore (D&FM); (2) Horses play an important part in the lives of many Roma of Romania. Two volunteer veterinarians are going there to work with missionaries on short term projects. While teaching them how to care for their horses they hope to share the gospel.

(1) The observance of Memorial Day as we remember the members of armed forces of all wars who sacrificed their lives for our country (2) I Youth Conference 27th-31st, Gulfshore (MBCB); (3) Pray for Prime Minister John Winston Howard of Australia

(1) GA Camp 3rd-7th, Garaywa (WMU); (2) The Basque Team of Spain encourages you to lift up a small group of Basque believers who meet once a month to pray and plan outreach activities. Ask the Father to give them a greater vision for reaching their people.

In early March, a prayer rally was held in Bangkok, Thailand, which included over 1,000 participants from many denominations. This spontaneous event represents a great step for the local church. Pray for those who are planning additional prayer encounters to be held throughout the year.

Pray for missionary Lisa Taylor in Peru, who recently returned home to find that thieves had stolen most of her possessions. Ask God to protect her and other missionaries as they face rising crime rates and danger.

(1) III Youth Conference 4th-8th Gulfshore (MBCB); (2) Missionaries Terry and Nan Williams ask us to pray for the eight to 10 young boys, ages 8 to 12, that come to their gate, asking to pick fruit in their yard. Pray that Nan and Terry will be able to start storing the Bible with them.

Pray for the volunteer team going to Colombia this month to work with a group of deaf people on the coast. Pray that the schools will be open and willing for the team to present the gospel. Ask that the hearts of the deaf will be open to the gospel and that many will receive Christ as their Savior.

A volunteer medical team went to the Guarayo village of Urubicha, Bolivia, in January. Give thanks to God that 2,400 persons were given medical attention during the four days. Twenty professions of faith were made during that time, out of 80 home visits.

(1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 5th-7th; (2) About 2.6 million Bibles are legally printed in China each year. But with 1.3 billion people residing in the most populous nation, the supply never meets the demand. Pray that every Chinese who desires a Bible can have one.

(1) III Senior Adult Conference, 23rd-25th, Gulfshore (D&FM); (2) Pray that God would provide and help sow His Word in abundance among the Serbs of Southern Europe. (3) Several Christian workers in China are suffering with severe health problems. Pray that peace will reign in their hearts while they recuperate.

Jesse and Virgie run the Good News Center in Longmont, Colo. They distribute food, clothing, compassion, and whatever else is needed. Virgie travels in and out of state speaking for this cause. Pray for a larger building. Pray that the Mexicans in the area can be reached for Christ.

Missionaries David and Renee Crane thank all Southern Baptists who participated in the mission study on the Massai of eastern Africa. "The prayers you lifted up for them enabled us to conduct a very large evangelism and church planting project during February and March 2002. We praise God for the glory He received."

May 17- June 6, 2002

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Pray for the nearly 2,000 people in Khabarovsk, Russia, who gladly received Bibles during the on-the-street Bible distributions project. Pray that these Russians will not only read and understand God's Word, but will seek to join small group Bible studies in their neighborhoods.

(1) Single Adult Conference, 25th- 27th, Gulfshore (D&FM); (2) A, a new believer in Cordoba, Argentina, like the centurion in Mt. 8:9, understood what it is to be under authority and was willing to put his trust in Christ. Ask God to help him grow and to be obedient to the Lord.

Some of you prayed for a Buryat believer in Russia who sold the Buryat Team her cabbages so they could be distributed to her entire village after a devastating hail storm had destroyed their crops. Please pray that this believer would be encouraged in her faith and have a desire to see her people saved.



Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

For security, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:

Child's name and parent's name
International Mission Board
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230-8767

CENTRAL HILLS SUMMER SCHEDULE 2002

Summer Missions Camp for Boys

June 10-14
June 17-21
June 24-28
July 8-12
July 15-19
July 22-26

Lad/Dad Weekend
June 21-22
July 19-20

For scheduling information contact

CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT
PO Box 698, Kosciusko MS 39090-0698
(662) 289-9730 Fax: (662) 289-9718
E-mail: ptyler@mbcb.org

Children's Camp for Boys and Girls

July 1-3

Mother/Son Weekend Camp

July 26-27

1-98 MR. BRADLEY CURTIS

Parents: Clifton & Cathy, Agriculture

2-83 MISS ALAINA BAKER

Parents: Kenneth & Lynn, Dentistry

3-85 MISS HEATHER BROWN

Parents: John & Claudia, General Evangelism

4-83 MISS TABITHA FOX

Parents: Thomas & Tammy, General Evangelism

11-87 MISS ANDREA HENDRICKS

Parents: Larry & Mary, General Evangelism

11-83 MR. BENJAMIN L. JONES

Parents: Michael & Pamela, Church Planting

13-89 MR. JOSHUA BROWN

Parents: John & Claudia, General Evangelism

13-85 MISS RACHEL L. GRAVES

Parents: Edgar & Marilyn, General Evangelism

17-99 MR. JOSHUA HARBIN

Parents: Christopher & Karen

17-99 MISS ABIGAIL C. HATHCOCK

Parents: Kenneth & Kimberly, Student Evangelism

17-82 MISS COURTNEY HAMMACK

Parents: K. Duane & Sandy, Area Director's Staff

20-93 MR. CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Parents: Clifton & Cathy, Agriculture

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Hays and the Pearsons



Lum and Edwards

Rocky Point Church, Carthage, honored C. F. Edwards (right) for his 42 years of dedicated service as deacon. Marshall Lum, pastor, in a special service, presented Edwards a plaque on April 14.

First Church, Tutwiler, ordained Dusty Pearson as deacon on March 24. Truman Scarborough, associational director of missions, North Central Association, brought the ordination message. Pictured (from left) are J. B. Hays, Jr., pastor; Pearson; and Gina Pearson.

Blondie Jean Hamilton Skelton, of Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill, was honored on April 7 for 30 years of service in the music ministry of the church. Skelton was present-

ed gifts and flowers by the church and family members. Former music students and family members provided special music and favorite memories. Pictured with Skelton (center) are Donald Skelton (left) and Travis Gray, pastor.



The Skeltons and Gray



Neil Harvison was recently ordained as a deacon at Pineview Church, Hattiesburg. Pictured (from left) are Steve Simmons, pastor; Neil's grandfather, James Harvison, deacon; Neil Harvison; and his father, Mike Harvison, deacon.

VBS dates

Vacation Bible School kick-off for Yalobusha Association will be held at Bethel Church, Water Valley, 7 p.m. on May 25. For additional information, call (662) 473-4202.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Bethany Church, Bay Springs, June 9-14, at 6 p.m. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. in fellowship hall, Monday-Thursday. Classes will be held for children from three through 15 years of age. For additional information, call (601) 764-9289 or 789-5261.

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The cost for the conference, including meals and lodging on the Samford University campus, is \$175 for pastors, \$90 for spouses, and \$90 for each child. The commuter rate, for conference attendance only, is \$100 for pastors and \$55 for spouses. For more information, or to request a detailed brochure, please call 1-800-888-8266. Or visit our Web site at <http://beeson.samford.edu>



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*The Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism is located at Beeson Divinity School.
Reverend Graham is not appearing at the Beeson Pastors School.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Revival dates

New Life, McLain: May 26-29; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Coram, Ocala, Fla., preaching; Brad Rawls and sanctuary choir, music; Jerry Rawls, pastor.

Calvary, New Augusta: May 19-24; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, and an afternoon service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Greg Clemons, guest speaker; Steve Lloyd, pastor.

New Zion Church, Liberty: May 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Reggie Bridges, music; Ray Quinnett, pastor.

Mississippi College (MC) chapter of Omicron Lambda inducted nineteen nursing students and seven community leaders from the Jackson area. Induction ceremonies were held at MC at B. C. Rodgers, Grand Hall East, on April 23. Keynote speaker was Peggy Hewlett, RN, EdD, associate dean for Research and the Director of the Doctoral Program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing. Students inducted were: Sarah Andrews, Lauren Beatty, Sarah Beth Dowdy, Stefanie Easley, Carrie Feather, Angela Greene, Joy Gribble, Cheli Kellems, John Martin, Rachel Murray, Jennifer Owens, Priscilla Pulliam, Amber Robertshaw, Adrienne Sizer, Brian Smith, Leslie Thaggard, Brandi Vance, Jennifer Vickers, and Richard Jones. Community

Leader inductees were: Alice Austin, Joyce Blue, Melisa Channell, Martha Collins, Sherri Davis, Angela Gillespie, and Suzanne McFarland.

The Mississippi College "M" Club inducted four new members into its Sports Hall of Fame on April 15. Pictured (from left) are Barry Hannah, Pensacola, Fla.; Fred McAfee, Madison; Mike Jones, Clinton; and Bill Causey, Clinton.

Mississippi College chapter of Mortar Board inducted 50 new members into its ranks during a special ceremony held recently on campus. Mortar Board is a senior honor society dedicated to the principles of scholarship, leadership, fellowship, college loyalty, self awareness, and service. Students inducted in the Mississippi



MC Omicron Lambda inductees

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, McComb, has called **Mack Amis, Jr.** as pastor, effective March 3. He previously served Hillcrest Church, Enterprise, Ala.



Amis

Belden Church, Belden, has called **Owen Riddick** as associate pastor and minister of education.



Bethany Church, Prentiss, has called **Darren Wigington** as pastor, effective March 3. Rhonda Wigington is serving as minister of music and youth.



Hillcrest Church, Jackson, has called **Luke Epperson, Edwards**, as youth pastor. Epperson attends Mississippi College, and was ordained to the ministry at Hillcrest on May 4.

Hillcrest Church, Jackson, has called **Luke Epperson, Edwards**, as youth pastor. Epperson attends Mississippi College, and was ordained to the ministry at Hillcrest on May 4.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, Van Winkle and steeples. Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Toll Free
1-800-821-7263

Carrollton Church, Carrollton, has called **Charles L. Jones** as pastor. Jones previously served First Church, Kappel, Tex.



Maranatha Church, Smith County, has called **Danny Adams** as pastor, effective March 31. He previously served Lone Star Church, Collins.

Adams

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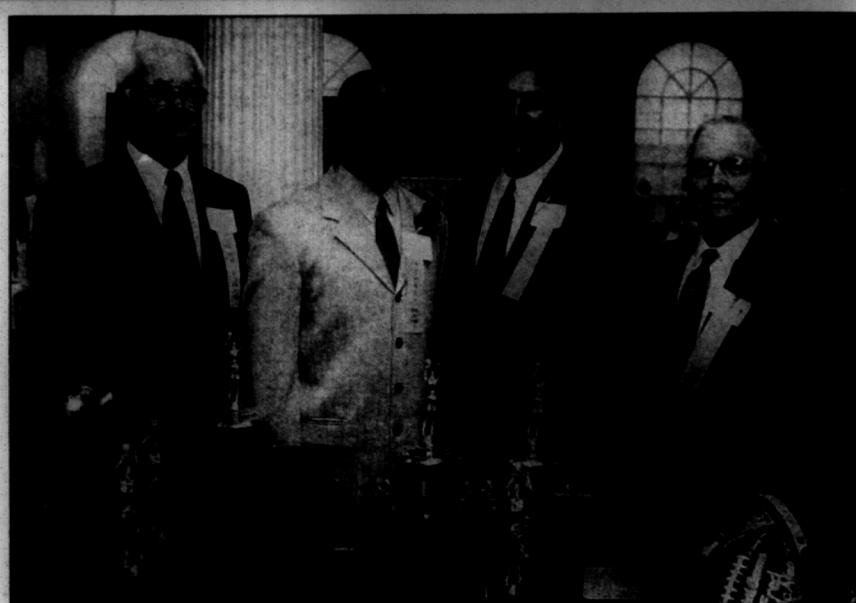
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MC "M" Club inductees

College Mortar Board Honor Society were: David Ash, Raymond; Lauren Beard, Jackson; Stacey Leigh Bloodworth, Ocean Springs; Jentry Bond, Laurel; Sarah Ann Braddock, Altamonte Springs, Fla.; Kaley Dawn Braswell, Raymond; Dana Brooks, Monticello; Benjamin Burkett, Jackson; Justin Calvert, Madison; Matthew Carpenter, Ocean Springs; Emory Colvin, Lafayette, La.; Susan Cope, Clinton; Leslie Corkern, Jackson; David Dawkins, Cordova, Tenn.; Jeffrey Feinberg, Moss Point; Laura Fincher, Madison; Jason Fletcher, Cordova, Tenn.; Laura Ford, Brentwood, Tenn.; Mary Elizabeth Harrison, Madison; Lori Hopper, Jackson, Tenn.; Krissi Howie, Baton Rouge, La.; John Kelly, Meadville; Kelsey Ann Keyes, Ellisville; Timothy Krason, Tupelo; Joshua Kyle, Clinton; Ruth Martz, Brandon; Lacy McNeil, Bay Springs; Leslie Mills, Clinton; Brenden Moon, Tupelo; Benjamin Moore, Laurel; Jennifer Moss, Kosciusko; Emily Neal, Clinton; Brent Newberry, Ocean Springs; Emily Ogletree, Brandon; Missy Packard, Hendersonville, Tenn.; Casey Patrick, Long Beach; Amy Pearson, Germantown, Tenn.; Jonathan Pettus,

Brandon; Chase Quarterman, Jackson; Patrick Robbins, Gautier; Cara Sheeler, Collierville, Tenn.; Ellen Singleton, Jackson, Tenn.; Ben Sones, Brookhaven; Grace Thornton, Clarksdale; Matt Treadway, Clinton; Megan Tubman, Vicksburg; Matt Weston, Germantown, Tenn.; Sarah Wilson, Kansas City, Mo.; Jalin Wood, Waynesboro; and Sarah Wood, Sunflower.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please e-mail resume to mwsjgb@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574 or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

BAY VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH is currently seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resumes to Bay Vista Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 2485 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS 39531.

HURLEY BAPTIST CHURCH - Hurley, Miss., seeking full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resume to: Hurley Baptist Search Committee, P.O. Box 395, Hurley, MS 39555.

ROLLING FORK BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a summer youth minister. Approximately 30 youth of Baptist and other denominations are involved. Two bedroom house is provided. The position could turn full-time at the end of summer if desired. If interested, please call Cissy Smith or Andy Anderson at (662) 873-4346 or the church office at (662) 873-2862.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NETTLETON is seeking a summer youth minister. For details call (662) 963-7341. Send resumes to: FBC Nettleton, P.O. Box 427, Nettleton, MS 38858-0427.

INGALLS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH in Pascagoula, Miss., is seeking a minister of music. We are looking for someone to follow the Lord's leadership and lead His church in worship each week. Additional duties might include education, outreach, or church-wide activities. For more information contact the church office at (228) 762-2935 or e-mail at joshua.smith@usdoj.gov.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Bible drill winners from Walthall Church, Webster Assn.

Bible drill winners from Walthall Church, Webster Association, were Patton Fulgham, Corey Hillhouse, Jessica Otts, Tabitha Crowley, Carley Otts, Chris Anderson, Weddle, pastor.

Kandi Ray, and Eleasha Fulgham. Windy Hubbard was Bible drill leader. Sponsors were Billy Shaw, Era Lee Shaw, and Lisa Fulgham. William

Montgomery Church, Summit, recently held church Bible drills. All participants advanced and received superior at state drills. Chassity Moak received a trophy at state for being a three-year participant. Pictured (front row, from left) are Garrett Wallace and Haleigh Parker; (second row) Chassity Moak, Brendon Van Norman, Mikki Mitchell, and Morgan Roberts. Brenda Parker is Bible drill leader.



Bible drill winners from Montgomery Church, Summit

HOECOMINGS

Bellevue, Pontotoc County: May 19; 11 a.m.; Tommy Inmon, guest speaker; noon fellowship meal and afternoon singing and fellowship; Lamar Pickens, pastor.

Arlington, Bogue Chitto: May 26; 11 a.m.; David Carter, Nashville, Tenn., guest speaker; noon meal; singing with Mark Brown and In His Honor, 1:30 p.m.; Bob Lynch, pastor.

Bethesda, Terry: June 2; 10:45 a.m.; Barry Boquet, Boug. La., former pastor, guest speaker; covered dish luncheon to follow.

New Zion, Crystal Springs: 155th year; May 18 and 19, Sat., meal at 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner in fellowship hall; Shaun Selman, Hattiesburg, guest speaker; Norris Curry, pastor.

Center Hill, Hamilton: June 2; 75th annual memorial and decoration service; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; memorial/worship service, 11 a.m.; Billy Wayne Morris, former pastor from 1969-1971, guest speaker; noon meal; 1:15 p.m., singing.

Leaf River, Pineville: June 9; Jim McIntosh, pastor of First Church, Altha, Fla., originally from Pineville, morning sermon; lunch and fellowship will follow; Pineville-Leaf River Cemetery Association will have its 45th annual meeting at 1:30 p.m.

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Harmony, Philadelphia: May 19; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; cemetery meeting after lunch; Wade Chappell, speaker; Dewey W. Moore, pastor.

Antioch, Monticello: May 26; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; gospel singing, 1:30 p.m.; Willie Ray Price, guest speaker; Gospel Travelers, McCall Creek, music; Dwayne Dunaway, pastor.

Thorn Hill, Pelahatchie: May 26; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m., gospel singing featuring Faith Alone from Pelahatchie.

Concord, Meadville: May 26; 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; 1:15 p.m. service; Reese Kyzer, speaker.

Causeyville, Meridian: May 19; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; service, 11 a.m.; Edsel Wells, former pastor, message; Paul Barkley, former music minister, music; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall.



Bible drillers from Concord Church, Yazoo Association



Children of Concord Church, Yazoo Association, who participated in state Bible drills were (from left), Sara Katherine Adams, Isaac Plunkett, Shelby Adams, and Ashley Cotton. All scored superior.

Youth Bible drillers of Belden Church, Belden, are (from left) Jay Nanney and Brian Daniels.

Nanney and Daniels

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Ministry in times of conflict

1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:1-23

By Sandra Gunn

Anyone who plants a church, and stays with it a year and a half, nourishing and tending to it lovingly, is certain to have close ties and warm feelings for that struggling body of believers. Such was the case with Paul who had been the instrument God used to bring these Corinthian members to salvation.

Now Paul receives word that this congregation of believers had many serious problems, one of which was friction among groups in the church over where their loyalties lay.

Paul had moved on from this city, and it was while he was in Ephesus that he, learning that things were not at all well in Corinth, wrote this letter.

Normally, when we receive personal letters, we eagerly anticipate what the writer has to say. Not so this letter! It was

corrective in nature, and at the same time, allows us to see the shepherd of this flock bearing the sorrows and problems of his people on his heart.

In a sense, the Corinthian letters lay bare the inner workings of this church and allow us to see what went on inside. Hopefully, we will not just be spectators, but will soak up the lessons God has for us in our churches today.

In verse 10 of chapter one, Paul gets to the root of one of the problems. He strongly, but tenderly, appeals to the members as brothers. He urges, or exhorts, them to become unified in thought, attitude, and outward expressions.

In chapter three Paul gives the Corinthians the basic reason why they had so many problems: they were still spiritual infants. They were undeveloped Christians. They were



Gunn

unable to digest solid food. They were still living like the world. Their spiritual immaturity was manifesting itself in envying, strife, and division.

Mature Christians rejoice in the unity of the church. When we become peace-makers, instead of merely peace-keepers, we recognize early the signs of disunity, and work to ward off strife and division.

Jealousy and strife are symptoms of fleshly living, and are much more destructive than we think. When a congregation develops loyalties to individuals, it is a sure sign of spiritual immaturity and leads the world to see no difference between believers and unbelievers.

Going further in his letter (3:5-9), Paul says that he and Apollos were merely servants carrying out their assignment from God: planting and watering. God is at the very center of this process in that he is the one who makes things grow.

Christian ministers are servants of God, not masters of men. The Gospel messengers belong to God and the ones

who receive the message belong to God. Each messenger has performed a task which the Lord had assigned. They have different tasks, but are united in their aim and purpose. It is not competition, but cooperation.

Paul then uses another analogy to get his point across. John MacArthur says that Paul's specialty in building was foundations. Paul himself says that his ability as a master builder was a gift straight from the grace of God. He was concerned that any who came later to build upon that foundation would be careful how he builds.

Every believer has that responsibility, for we all teach the Gospel by what we say and do. We cannot, must not, be careless in representing the Lord.

The real foundation is Jesus Christ himself, not church tradition, not humanism, not moral teachings, not a religious system, and not human philosophy.

Every Christian is a builder, and the materials we use must be those which will last. Only worthy materials must go into our churches — those that will stand the test of divine judgement.

One's salvation is not in question here, but the kind of influence we exert and the worthiness of our contribution. Some work will be found to be worthless and in vain, and some will prove to have abiding value. The real test of service is not the praise of men but the judgement of Christ.

When Paul speaks of "you" being the temple of God, he is speaking of the church, not the individual. When we introduce division and dissension into the church, we are destroying the very temple of God. God jealousy guards that which is holy. Every Christian church is a place where God's presence is keenly felt; where we are encouraged and inspired to draw near to him; where God is manifested in and by his people to the world.

We are given an awesome responsibility. The very badge of the church is our love for one another. We are responsible for one another's welfare; we are to pray for one another; we are called to be one-minded and to live in peace. The whole world is watching!

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Build strong relationships

Ephesians 6:1-9

By Robin Brumfield

This week's lesson is about the behavior Paul encouraged Christians to have in relationships. The emphasis is on relating to others as children, parents, employees, and employers.

The basis of our relationship is Christ. The behavior of some Christians at home and at work is no different from that of unbelievers. They conduct themselves as they please in family and work situations.

At times these same believers declare they are Christians at home or at work. At best this shows their behavior is inconsistent and at worst it is hypocritical.

God expects believers' behavior in all areas of our lives to be consistent with and to be



Brumfield

governed by their relationship with Christ. These verses were addressed to people in a Christian home — parents, children, and slaves were all believers.

This passage is broken into four sections. The first section deals with obeying parents (vv. 1-3). In verse 3 obedience, on the part of children, is a general principle of right living that helps to promote longer living.

The major emphasis is that Paul admonished Christian children to obey their parents. To give credibility to his words, he cited the commandment to honor one's parents as scriptural support.

The application for today is simple and straight forward: Christian children are to obey

their parents because it is right, and it is what God commands.

The second section deals with training children (v. 4). This verse is addressed specifically to "fathers," since the Greek word used here is different from the one used for "parents" in verse 1.

Mothers, do not lose heart. This verse also applies to mothers as well, since they are under the authority or headship of their husbands. Mothers represent the fathers in relating to their children.

The emphasis of this verse is that Paul taught that Christian fathers should exercise care in how they treat and teach their children. Children must be taught not to become embittered and must be taught a good religious education.

Now let's apply this to our daily living: Christian parents should treat and teach their children in ways that will not cause them to be resentful or

bitter but in ways that will help them to put Christ first in their daily living.

The third section deals with working for others (vv. 5-8). These verses are not about whether slavery is wrong. Paul was interested here in holding up principles of behavior that would promote and enhance unity in the church.

The behavior of Christians who happened to be slaves or slave owners applies to Christians today who are employees or employers. Notice that the KJV translation of verse 6 gives the literal meaning of the Greek text.

The point is that slaves were to be obedient all the time. They were not to be obedient just when their masters were watching them. Thus, employees are to be obedient all the time and not just when their boss is watching them. Paul emphasizes that a slave should serve his or her earthly master as though the master was the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

The major application for believers today is that Christians who are employed by others should serve God in their workplaces. This means a lot more than just doing enough to get by and do a minimum amount of work. Christians should constantly ask themselves if their attitudes and actions show that they are servants of Jesus Christ.

Finally, the fourth section deals with supervising others (v. 9). The emphasis is that Paul commanded slaveholders to treat their slaves with respect and kindness. Paul reminds the Christian slaves that their Master is in heaven and Christ will be impartial in judging the slave owners.

How does this apply to the twenty-first century Christian? This verse applies to today by stating that Christians who supervise others in the workplace should treat each and every employee with respect and kindness.

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

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Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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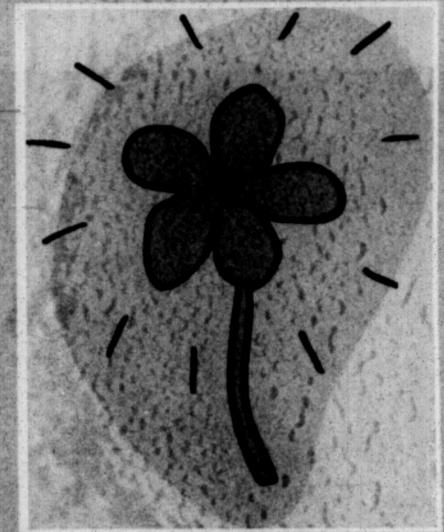
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Intelligent design getting hearing in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP) — When a State Board of Education subcommittee began a scheduled review of Ohio public schools' science curriculum,

"What really pricked my interest in this subject initially was learning that science essentially abandons the scientific method when it deals with origins science," Calvert told the six-member subcommittee of the 19-member board during a 30-minute presentation. "Darwinian evolution assumes as a starting point that the unsupported hypothesis of chemical evolution is true."

Calvert also noted, "The effect of modern origins science is to imbue a belief in naturalism" — evolution's "doctrine that all phenomena result only from natural processes and not by design."

"According to a naturalistic worldview," he said, "we are mere occurrences that just happen without purpose."

Discussion of intelligent design is essentially censored when it is kept out of the classroom, Calvert also said.

The naturalistic worldview, Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) told Baptist Press, "is what has brought us to this time in our nation when life has become so devalued."

"Because the naturalistic worldview considers people to be no more than the product of chemical reactions, it allows no room for innate human worth," said Duke, the ERLC's vice

president for research. "The inevitable result of a naturalistic worldview is abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and the many other atrocities committed in the name of science and technology that we are witnessing today."

All biology textbooks and the proposed Ohio science standard address a fundamental question, Calvert told the subcommittee: Where do we come from?

"So the question becomes," he explained, "what should

we tell our kids about it? If we are just occurrences that result from random and undirected natural processes, then we have no inherent purpose. However, if we are the product of design, then we have an inherent purpose since all designs have a purpose."

The design hypothesis is supported by an abundance of scientific evidence and does not derive its authority from

any religious text, the geologist-turned-attorney said. He provided six examples to the subcommittee, noting, for example, that the fossil record is in many respects more consistent with the design hypothesis than the naturalistic hypothesis.

It shows sharp bursts of increased complexity and long periods of stasis, rather than a gradual progression of complexity as predicted by Darwinian evolution.

"Although the evidence of design is scientifically derived, it clearly has religious implications," Calvert acknowledged, "but that is also true of the naturalistic hypothesis."

"Any answer to the 'Where do we come from?' question has religious implications — either positive or negative. Design positively impacts theism; naturalism negatively impacts it."

The design hypothesis is supported by an abundance of scientific evidence and does not derive its authority from their book, explore various ways people have considered design over the last 3,000 years or so. The section, they note, "provides a condensed overview of many of the major positions that have influenced the course of thought in the West. We mention briefly how different religions and philosophies have thought about design and explore how the philosophical views have influenced both the theology and the science of the West."

The concluding three chapters of the 250-page book then explore realms of scientific study in which major breakthroughs have provided renewed speculation on design, including cosmology, math and physics, and chemistry and biology.

Davis and Poe recap the new terminology emerging from recent design discussions, such as anthropic principles, irreducible complexity and specified complexity. Science has been quite successful at describing processes, they note, "but has failed at explaining origins."

B&H is the trade publishing arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Calvert

AUTHOR DEBATES — Biologist Jonathan Wells, a fellow at the Discovery Institute think tank and author of the 2000 book, *Icons of Evolution: Why Much of What We Teach About Evolution Is Wrong*, was among four participants in a mid-March debate as part of Ohio State Board of Education deliberations over opening the state's science curriculum to the concept of intelligent design. (BP photo courtesy of John Calvert)

they had no idea an intense media firestorm would accompany their deliberations.

At issue: whether the curriculum should be limited to evolution or whether the study of the beginnings of life should include intelligent design, which holds that life is too complex to have just happened.

Ohio has thus become the first state to formally address the place of intelligent design in the classroom. The board's deliberations included an evolution/intelligent design debate that drew more than 1,000 people to Veteran's Memorial Auditorium in Columbus in mid-March.

The issue could erupt in the state legislature and some Ohio newspapers say the issue could put Gov. Bob Taft on the hot seat in his re-election campaign this November.

"It's a political ballgame now," Lynn Elfner, a member of a state education board science advisory committee and director of the Ohio Academy of Science, was quoted as saying in a front-page article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Unhappy with an early draft of the proposed science standard for grades K-12 specifically calling for teaching only evolution, the science standards subcommittee of the State Board of Education in January probed deeper.

They invited John Calvert, an attorney from Kansas with specialized training in geology, to make a presentation to them on "What Should Ohio Tell Children About Their Origins." Calvert is cofounder of the Intelligent Design Network.

Profs take 3000-year look at human origins

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Two professors at Baptist-affiliated Union University have entered the evolution/intelligent design debate via a new book, *Designer Universe: Intelligent Design and the Existence of God*, from Broadman & Holman (B&H) Publishers.

Jimmy H. Davis is acting dean of the college of arts and sciences and professor of chemistry at Union, located in Jackson, Tenn. Harry L. Poe is vice president of academic resources and information service and associate professor of Christian studies at Union.

"We have seen that for over three thousand years in different places and cultures, the notion of the design of the universe has enjoyed remarkable resilience," Davis and Poe write. "Not only has this idea survived changes in religious context, but it has survived changes in philosophical and scientific worldview as well."

Yet ahead, they write, may be "a new understanding of reality and the possibilities of human knowledge rooted in the ancient Hebrew understanding of the soul made in the image of God."

Davis and Poe, in the first three chapters of

Designer Universe

Bibliocipher

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BQ DBMD FQVQGDQDB
KQ, MZL FQGQPNQDB
ZAD KO EAFLJ, BMDB
AZQ DBMD VRLWQDB
BPK; DBQ EAFL DBMD P
BMNQ JUAXQZ, DBQ
JMKQ JBMII VRLWQ BPK
PZ DBQ IMJD LMO.
VABZ DEQINQ: YAFDO-
QPWBD

Clue: V = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs One: Seven.